

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 071273

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTIONSECSTATE INFO BEIRUT JIDDA KUWAIT
TELAVIV APRIL 13, FROM PARIS REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

S E C R E T PARIS10429

EXDIS

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IS, EG, SA, KU

SUBJ: POSSIBLE 1973 VISIT TO FRANCE BY ABBA EBAN?

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: PARIS 24977 DEC 1972

1. HA- ARETZ CORRESPONDENT ELIE MAISSI (WHO MUST BE CAREFULLY
PROTECTED) GAVE EMBOFF APRIL 10 PHOTOCOPY OF LETTER DATED
OCTOBER 16, 1972, FROM PREMIER MESSMER TO GENERAL DE BENOUE-
VILLE, A GAULLIST DEPUTY, OUTSTANDING RESISTANCE HERE, AND
CHAIRMAN OF JOURS DE FRANCE PUBLICATION, TEXT OF LETTER FOL-
LOWS: QUOTE: MY DEAR PIERRE. LIKE YOU, I WANT THE CONTACTS
BETWEEN US AND THE ISRAELIS TO REMAIN UNBROKEN. TO REINVIGORATE
THEM, THE MILITARY TERRAIN DOES NOT SEEM TO ME, FOR THE MOMENT, THE
BEST. BUT YOU MAY MAKE KNOWN TO YOUR INTERLOCUTORS THAT WE
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WOULD GLADLY WELCOME TO PARIS M. ABBA EBAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL, EITHER IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY OR OFFICIALLY, IF HE EXPRESSES THE DESIRE FOR THIS. BELIEVE, MY DEAR PIERRE, IN MY FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIP. (SIGNED) PIERRE MESSMER. END QUOTE.

2. EMBOFF ASKED MAISSI WHEN EBAN MIGHT COME TO FRANCE, NOTING VISIT WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE PROPITIOUS FOR SOME TIME IN WAKE OF RECENT VIOLENCE IN NICOSIA AND BEIRUT. MAISSI THOUGHT IF TENSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST CALM DOWN SUFFICIENTLY, ISRAELIS MIGHT SUGGEST EBAN VISIT TO FRANCE IN JUNE OR JULY, OR PERHAPS SHORTLY BEFORE FALL ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL. MEANTIME, FRENCH WOULD WELCOME SAUDI ARABIA'S KING FAYSAL, EMIR OF KUWAIT, AND PERHAPS OTHER ARAB LEADERS OF SMALL SHEIKHDOMS IN ORDER TO SATISFY ARAB SENSITIVITIES AND EASE THE WAY FOR A VISIT BY EBAN.

3. IN APRIL 12 CALL AT QUAI, EMBOFF ASKED DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST ROUILLON ABOUT COMING VISITS TO FRANCE BY ARAB LEADERS. ROUILLON SAID THAT KING FAYSAL WOULD BE HERE MAY 14 TO 16, BUT THAT DATES NOT YET FIXED FOR VISITS OF OTHERS. ROUILLON ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR HAFEZ ISMAIL WOULD ALSO BE VISITING PARIS " IN NEAR FUTURE" TO CARRY FORWARD HIS ROUND OF TALKS WITH KEY CAPITALS ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

4. ROUILLON THOUGHT THIS WEEK'S VIOLENCE BY BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS WOULD NECESSARILY SET BACK ANY POTENTIAL DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES AIMED AT BREAKING THROUGH IMPASSE IN ARAB- ISRAELI SITUATION. THUS, HE DID NOT SEE HOW VERY MUCH COULD COME OUT OF ISMAIL VISIT HERE. IRWIN UNQUOTE ROGERS

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